

The decision by Sinclair Broadcasting to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary - free of advertising - days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Yet Sinclair has made no secret of its alignment with the Republican Party and the Bush Campaign, and is failing to provide equal time to opposing political opinions in the run-up to the election. Top executives, and members of the controlling Smith family, have supported Bush's campaign financially, and in April it ordered seven of its ABC-affiliated stations not to air a "Nightline" segment featuring a reading of the names of U.S. soldiers killed in Iraq.

The "Stolen Honor" documentary repeats many of the claims made in advertisements by Swift Boat Veterans for Truth, which were effectively discredited by the independent Annenberg Public Policy Center, and by ABC's Nightline report of October 14th.

Please take Sinclair's failure to serve the public interest into account during the license renewal process for their stations. Thank you.